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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

As set forth in the Office Action mailed August 8, 2003, the Examiner asserts that claims 1-14 and 16-20 (Group I) and claim 15 (Group II) are drawn to patentably distinct subject matter. The Examiner therefore requires Applicant to select for examination the claims of Group I or the claim of Group II.

In response, Applicant provisionally elects, without traverse, to prosecute for examination purposes, the invention identified in Group I, claims 1-14 and 18-20, and to cancel claims 16 and 17 which depend from claim 15. The restriction requirement is respectfully traversed.